

## Patent Claims

1. A homogeneous floor covering of cross-linkable, elastomer material, having a multicolored, directionless pattern, and a thickness of 1.5 to 3.5 mm, characterized in that the floor covering, in the case of widths of 1 m to 2 m, has no change in thickness exceeding + 5% over its entire width, that the floor covering has a minimum elongation of 60% according to DIN 53 504 (tensile test), and that it contains 3 to 20 per cent by weight, with respect to its total weight, of a copolymer of ethylene including at least one comonomer belonging to the group of
  - vinyl esters of saturated carboxylic acids having up to 4 C-atoms in the acid group,
  - unsaturated mono- or dicarboxylic acids,
  - esters of unsaturated mono- or dicarboxylic acids having up to 8 C-atoms in the alcohol portion, or
  - $\alpha$ -olefins having 4 to 10 C-atoms,the ethylene content of the copolymer being 40 to 95 per cent by weight, the comonomer content 5 to 60 per cent by weight, and the melt-flow index of the copolymer lying between 0.1 and 50.
2. The floor covering as recited in Claim 1, characterized in that it contains 3 to 10 per cent by weight of a copolymer.
3. The floor covering as recited in Claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the granular particles forming it have a single color in and of themselves.
4. The floor covering as recited in Claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the granular particles forming it have a colored pattern in and of themselves.

5. A process for manufacturing a homogeneous floor covering of cross-linkable, elastomer material, having a multicolored, directionless pattern, a thickness of 1.5 to 3.5 mm and a width of 1 to 2 m, comprising the manufacture of granular particles existing in at least two colors which differ from each other, from correspondingly varicolored rubber mixtures produced independently of each other, which are formed into strands using extruding machines, and subsequently granulated into grain sizes of up to 3.0 mm; further comprising the subsequent spreading of the granular particles on a band-shaped, horizontally moving carrier, the compression and vulcanization in a band molding press appropriate for the width of the floor covering to be produced, at 160 to 180°C and at a pressure of 3 to 10 N/mm<sup>2</sup>, the subsequent polishing of the surface forming the back side of the resulting web, characterized in that, with respect to the total weight of all materials to be processed, 3 to 20 per cent by weight of a copolymer of ethylene including at least one comonomer are mixed with the unvulcanized rubber mixtures prior to their processing, the comonomer belonging to the group of

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- unsaturated mono- or dicarboxylic acids,
- esters of unsaturated mono- or dicarboxylic acids having up to 8 C-atoms in the alcohol portion, or
- $\alpha$ -olefins having 4 to 10 C-atoms,

the ethylene content of the copolymer being 40 to 95% per cent by weight, the comonomer content 5 to 60 per cent by weight, and the melt-flow index of the copolymer lying between 0.1 and 50.

6. The process as recited in Claim 5,

characterized in that a copolymer proportion of 3 to 10 per cent by weight is selected.

7. The process as recited in Claim 5 or 6, characterized in that granular particles having a single color in and of themselves are produced and used.

8. The process as recited in Claim 5 or 6, characterized in that granular particles having a colored pattern in and of themselves are produced and used.